

# ALASKA PEOPLE

Bureau of Land Management

January/February 1995 Vol. 16, No. 1





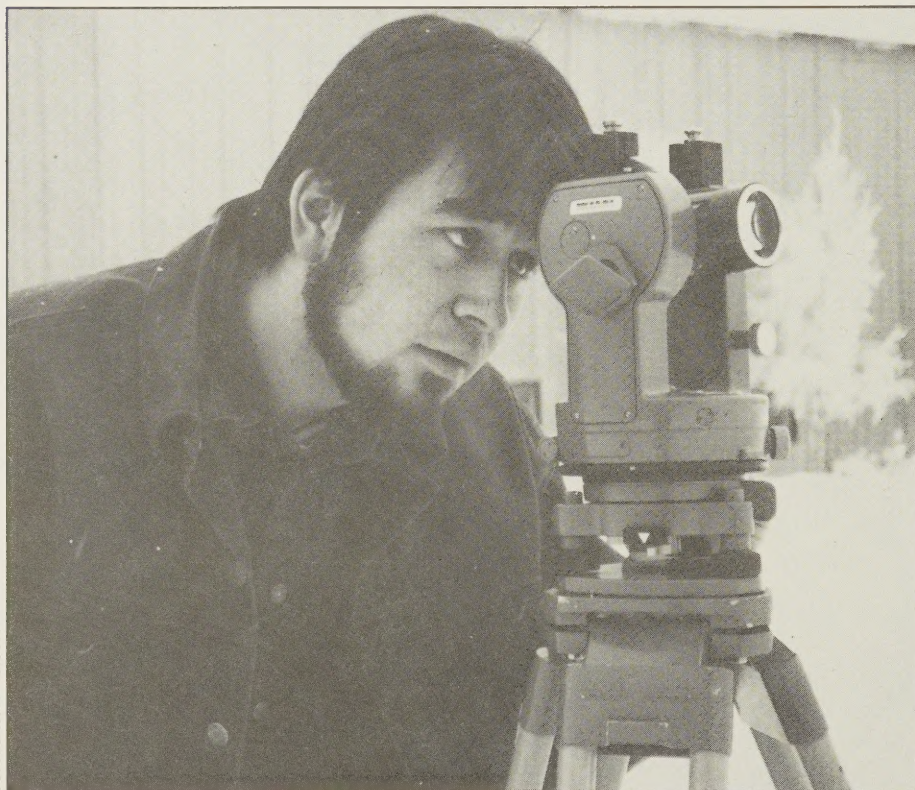


# BLM "638" survey program praised

The BLM Alaska "638" cadastral survey program was named Project of the Year by the International Right of Way Association at ceremonies in Anchorage Dec. 9. Cadastral's Steve Hamrick accepted the award for BLM. The award citation praised BLM's efforts in "638" survey contracting: "BLM could have resisted and dug its feet to protect the status quo and the established bureaucracy. Instead they used their special skills and ability to provide Alaska Natives with the tools they needed to do a good job."

Under the Indian Self-Determination Act (Public Law 93-638), Alaska Native organizations may contract with BLM to survey lands they have selected under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Native Allotment Act. To date, BLM has awarded \$9.4 million in survey contracts to Native groups throughout the state.

The International Right of Way Association is a nonprofit professional organization for persons involved in the acquisition, management or disposal of real estate for public agencies.

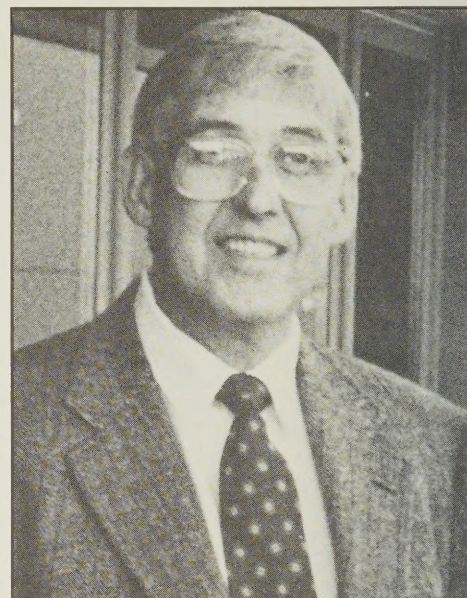


Teresa McPherson

Instrument technician Justin Rousseau of Soldotna helped with "638" surveys at Teller in the summer of 1994. Kawerak, Inc. contracted with BLM to survey Native allotments in the area. Rousseau is a former RAPS student and co-op with BLM.

In Memory

Marvin B. Robertson



BLM and the fire management community lost a valued member when Marv Robertson, associate manager of the Alaska Fire Service, died Jan. 2.

Born Oct. 4, 1944, in Greeley, Colo., Marv first came to Alaska in 1965 as a seasonal firefighter with BLM in Fairbanks. He became a smokejumper and then joined AFS full-time in 1970. He worked as a fire control technician, fire management officer and chief of air attack systems and fire operations. He became associate manager in 1992.

Marv was diagnosed with cancer in September 1993. He continued to work despite his illness, serving most of the year as acting manager of AFS. He was at work on Dec. 30 before leaving for Anchorage for treatment. He died at Alaska Regional Hospital.

Marv loved Alaska and its outdoor activities. He enjoyed moose hunting at a cabin he shared with a group of friends and working in the yard around his house.

Our sympathies go to his wife, Joyce, daughter Shandra, sister Norma McKibban, and other members of his family.

Your employee newsletter  
is printed on  
recycled paper.





# BLMer finds familiar sign in unlikely place

by Andy Williams  
Northern Districts Office

Something was familiar about the poster on the wall in downtown Dresden, Germany.

The poster showed a person with a bicycle posed in front of a sign that read "Arctic Circle."

Sue Steinacher, interpretive specialist with the Steese/White Mountains District in Fairbanks, clapped her hands to her face and dropped her jaw. It was the BLM sign on the Dalton Highway in Alaska.

"I just stood there and looked and laughed. I didn't care who saw me. I was so surprised to see this sign from another place and time," Steinacher said.

The sign is well-known to travelers of the Dalton Highway. Installed by the Arctic District in 1992, it marks the point where the Arctic Circle crosses the Dalton Highway, about 60 miles south of Coldfoot. The design by former BLMers Jan Burris and Marin Kuizenga received a national award for excellence in interpretive media.

Steinacher came upon the poster in late October near the end of a lengthy holiday abroad. She crossed the Bering Strait by sailboat and then traveled westward across Russia. Dresden is in the former East Germany.

The poster advertised an appearance by the person with the bicycle, who evidently had traveled the length of the Americas with it.

"I wouldn't know what it was except I have some German friends who do this for a living," Steinacher said. "People do these

## RAD-ABENTEUER

Startpunkt: Ushuaia auf Feuerland. Ziel: Das Eismeer in Alaska. Und wie Feuer und Eis war diese Bike-Tour auf - und noch viel öfter neben - der berühmten „Traumstraße der Welt“, der Panamericana, der längsten Straße der Amerikas, die für mich erst nach 45.000 Kilometern, 17 Ländern und nach drei Jahren zu Ende war.

Erleben Sie in faszinierenden Bildern dieses einmalige Bike-Abenteuer und die ganze Panamericana in all ihrer herben Schönheit und in ihrer vollen Härte, von den endlosen Schotterpisten Patagoniens über Andenpässe bis auf 4.700 Meter Höhe, durch dampfende Regenwälder, ferne Wüsten bis zu den endlosen Wäldern Nordamerikas.

**25. 10.** Universität Dresden  
Dienstag, 19.30 Uhr,  
Raum TRE MATI, Zellescher Weg 16  
Eintritt: Erwachsene: DM 200,- Schüler/Studenten: DM 100,-  
Vorverkauf bei Günterbotter Wildnauer Str. 3, Dresden

Es macht nur einen Teil von vielen  
PANAMERICANA

Sue Steinacher of Steese/White Mountains District found this poster on a wall in Dresden, Germany. It shows the BLM sign marking the Arctic Circle on the Dalton Highway.

great adventures, take photos of them, and then come back and put on presentations to help pay the cost."

Steinacher said the posters were hung up all around Dresden. She gathered up four of them and brought them back to Fairbanks. One hangs now outside the office of Jim Sisk, assistant manager for recreation and cultural resources in the Arctic District.

"It shows that the work we do has wider ranging effects than we realize," Steinacher said. "It can show up in places we wouldn't imagine."



# After BLM, there's the Chugiak Senior Center!

by Danielle Allen  
Anchorage District Office

Della Grahn has been waiting six years. The first time they called, she wasn't ready. Her name dropped to the bottom of the list and she continued working as a purchasing agent in Procurement. This summer, four years later, they called again—and this time, she was ready.

In October, Grahn moved into her lovely apartment at the Chugiak Senior Center, located in picturesque Chugiak, and things couldn't be better. She and Muffin, her poodle, and RZ, her shitzu, are right at home. "I always wanted to retire here," says Grahn, who retired from BLM Dec. 30 during the latest round of buyouts.

What's the attraction of the Chugiak Senior Center for residents like Grahn? Many things. "The center does an excellent job of providing companionship in a congregate living situation," says Rick Lyons, the assistant director.

Grahn feels the same way. She also knows many of the people at the center from her early days in Alaska. And Grahn is definitely an old-time Alaskan.

Her working days began in 1947 when she was a phone operator for the Signal Corps on Fort Richardson. Communication was done the old-fashioned way, with a pull and plug of telephone wires. But her operator career was cut short when she started having babies.

In 1961, she returned to work as a cafeteria manager for 12 years at the Lake Otis Elementary and Wendler Junior schools in Anchorage. Along the way, she and her husband homesteaded 160 acres in Wasilla, built a road (now called Church Road), and got

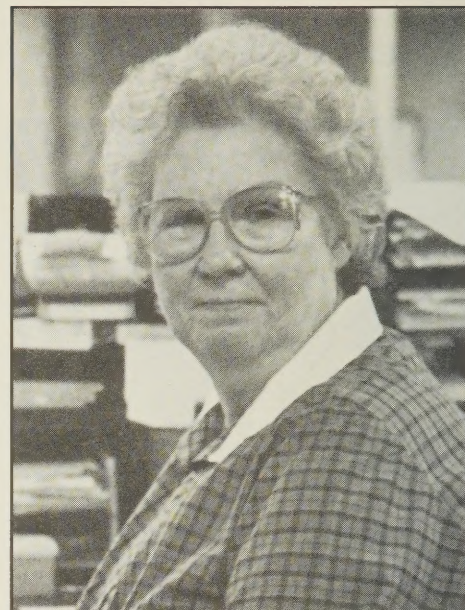
divorced. With her kids, she turned her attention to operating Kings Lake Camp, a recreation camp near Wasilla, during the summer and holidays, and working for the Anchorage School District during the school year. "I never took a vacation during that time," she laments.

During the '70s, she moved to Anchorage and started baking for the new juvenile corrections center, the McLaughlin Youth Center, and married her husband, Swede, who is now deceased. It was also when she lost her right arm in an accident while driving Boniface Road. She never mourned the loss of her arm, to the dismay of her counselor, but was rehabilitated, completed business school and sought a career in accounting.

For six years, she did accounting for a children's center before coming to the BLM State Office, then located in the Cordova Building in downtown Anchorage. "When BLM moved to the new Federal Building, I moved to the Anchorage District at the Campbell Tract. I couldn't work in the federal building," says Grahn. At the district, she held the positions of telephone operator, docket clerk and purchasing agent. So she has her share of BLM memories.

She'll have plenty of time to reflect on those memories at the Chugiak Senior Center with the beautiful Chugach Mountains in the foreground. Grahn has access to a dining room, three lounges, gift shop, beauty and barber shop, grocery store and other services.

Two levels of care are available—assisted and independent. Grahn is one of 43 residents who live independently in one-bedroom apartments. She, like the others,



Ed Bow

**Purchasing agent Della Grahn recently retired to Chugiak, where she lives with her canine companions, Muffin and RZ.**

can cook in her apartment or eat in the dining room. With her dogs, she can pick up and go whenever she wants, take the People Mover bus (which comes to the center's front door), or drive her own car into Anchorage.

A recently completed assisted care unit houses 20 residents who require a little more care—house-keeping, administering medications, and general monitoring.

Presently, there's a three-year waiting list at the center. Applicants must be 55 to place their names on the waiting list, and 60 to reside at the center. Residents pay \$350 a month for independent care apartments or \$1,200 for assisted care quarters.

Lyons says, "We have people from the Lower 48 on the list. My parents are on it." Lyons, 50, will place he and his wife's name on the list in five years.

Grahn says, "It's time to get on with the next part of my life. And I'm looking forward to not having to drive the Glenn Highway!"

For more information about the Chugiak Senior Center call 688-2677.



# White elephant auction nets \$1,500 for Santa

by Andy Williams  
Northern Districts Office

White elephants gathered nearly \$1,500 for Santa's Clearing House at the BLM Northern Districts' Christmas auction Dec. 15.

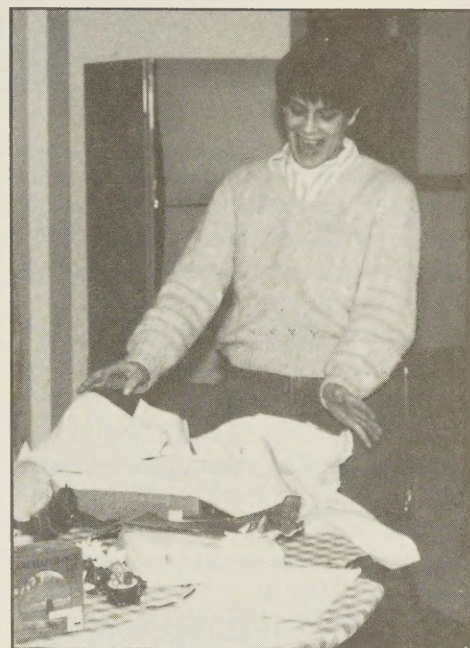
Joe Webb, fisheries biologist with the Kobuk District, wielded the gavel as people bid blindly on more than 30 gift-wrapped packages. Items ranged from a lump of coal to a piece of hand-carved ivory. The money was used for Christmas food baskets and other items distributed to needy families in the Fairbanks area.

The event was organized primarily by Martha Woodworth, chief of Records and Public Information, and Nelda Garrett, land

law examiner in the Public Room, with help from others in the Northern Districts. Garrett said the white elephant auction has been conducted annually since before she arrived in 1979, and that this was one of the most successful she's seen.

As usual, the auction drew a wide range of unusual items donated for the cause. A ceramic owl candle lamp went for \$100. Somebody else bought an old lab coat. A large, heavy package, elaborately wrapped, contained the lump of coal. A small, insignificant package held the ivory.

"The auction is fun and it's for



Dan Gullickson

Susan Will unwraps an old lab coat, known around NDO as the "cadaver coat." There must be a story here...

a good cause," Garrett said. "This is one of the traditions that's worth keeping up."

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While Fairbanks BLMers were busy bidding on their favorite mystery package, Betty Lockard of ASO Conveyances was busy as well. Each work day throughout December she collected and sorted the clothing and food donated by employees for Anchorage's needy families.

"I want to thank everyone who donated clothing, toys, food and all the other items," said Lockard. "The ladies at Clare House were very pleased to receive all the goodies we delivered, as the did the homeless people who received the coats, boots, hats and socks. On behalf of these people, THANK YOU ALL!"

Clare House provides emergency food, clothing and shelter to women and children in the Anchorage Community.

Is it a handmade creation from the Great Alaskan Bowl Company? Hardly! Anne Morkill stares at the lump of coal she paid \$25 for, as she reminds herself that the auction is for a good cause!



Dan Gullickson



## Workwise or Otherwise

**CROSSING THE LINE**—BLM has just entered into a cooperative agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources to exchange non-sensitive data on a "similar value exchange" basis. "This means that if BLM wants something from DNR, we will provide something of equal value in return," explains records administrator Sandy Thomas. BLM and the state will use the agreement to exchange Geographic Information System (GIS) data, land information, and resource management and protection data. Under the agreement, BLM and the State of Alaska will also exchange personnel for work assignments or work sharing. If you'd like further information, call Thomas at 271-5502.

**WORKING TOGETHER**—Employees of the Glennallen District and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve combined efforts recently to complete a fully accessible restroom for the district offices. The upgraded facility brings the district office into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. It also gave BLM and NPS employees a chance to exercise an interagency agreement to share personnel and equipment wherever possible.

**KUDOS TO WIELICKIEWICZ** The Copper River Emergency Medical Services Council recently recognized Glennallen District office assistant Ed Wielickiewicz for assisting on 45 ambulance runs during the past year. Only one other volunteer out of a cadre of 45 logged more runs than Wielickiewicz. An average ambulance run is two-and-a-half hours. The Copper River EMS crew services 22,000 square miles (an area roughly the size of the state of Ohio), responding to accidents and illness and transporting patients to Gulkana airfield for medivac.

Wielickiewicz also serves on the Council's Board of Directors and assists with first aid and CPR training.

**TO SHOW WE CARE**—Loree Schimmack, daughter of retired BLMer Jim Murray of Fairbanks, is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments at a Seattle hospital to prepare for a bone marrow transplant. Her husband, Barry, is on leave without pay to be with his wife as much as possible and to help care for their children, two-year-old Danya and

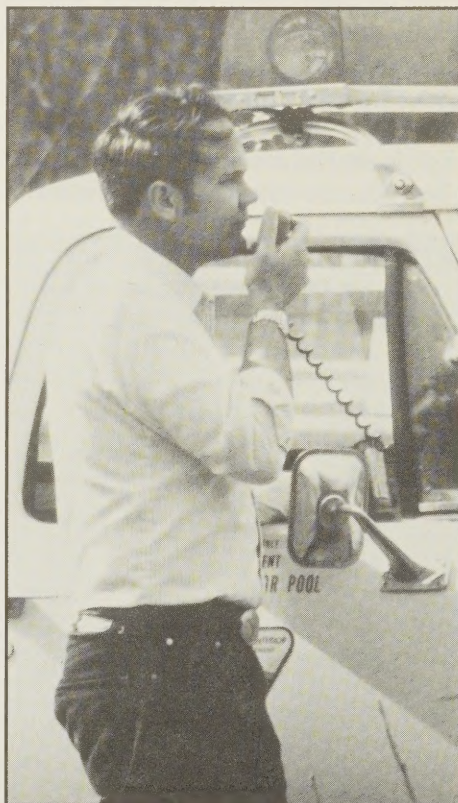
seven-month-old Brett.

To help the family, an account has been set up at the National Bank of Alaska to pay for clothing, diapers, formula, and flying the kids back and forth to Seattle to see their mother. BLMers wishing to contribute to the fund may send their contributions to Loree Schimmack Cancer Fund, National Bank of Alaska, Box 71000, Fairbanks, AK 99707.

**IN MEMORY**—BLM retiree George Bristow, 82, died Dec. 29 at his Anchorage home. Bristow worked for the Alaska State Office coordinating travel and employee relocations. Memorial contributions may be sent to Hospice of Anchorage, 3605 Arctic Blvd, Suite 555, Anchorage, AK 99503.

**NEW "FAMILY FRIENDLY"** LEAVE REGS IN EFFECT—Full-time employees may now use up to 40 hours of sick leave per year to provide care for a family member during illness, injury, pregnancy, childbirth, or to attend the funeral of a family member. Medical certification may be required for absences in excess of three days. For more detailed information, contact Carol Sheldon or Tim Godfrey of HRM at 271-5043.

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**—Look for upcoming information on Black History (Heritage) Month, February '95. Plans are underway for six events, including specialty foods, fun, fotos and facts. Events will focus on the national theme, "Reflections 1895: Douglass, DuBois and Washington." Dates, times and locations will be announced via E-mail, posters and flyers. All events will provide historical, present and futuristic accounts of African Americans. For further information, call Ella Wright at 271-3581.



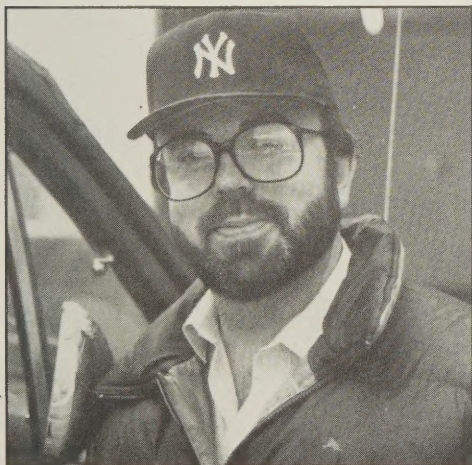
**PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP**—Can you identify this former Alaska BLMer? Hint: the photo was taken in July 1976 in the Fortymile area. And congrats to BLM retiree Carl Jeglum of Fairbanks who correctly identified our last mystery photo. Jeglum said he recognized Wayne Boden (recently retired DSD for Conveyances) right away, "since I was with him when the photo was made," said Jeglum. "We were doing a recreation inventory at Portage Creek Road near Circle Hot Springs."



# News from the Campbell Tract

Visitor use surveys continue on the Campbell Tract in Anchorage. Thirteen surveys were done in December, resulting in 23 interviews and the observations of 36 visitors involved in various recreational activities. The survey is part of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) planning process. LAC is based on defining and maintaining high quality natural resource conditions and visitor experiences of an area. ADO outdoor recreational planner Janelle Eklund, who oversees the surveys, says, "We've been fortunate that everyone we've encountered has been so positive." Members of the ADO staff conduct the two-hour surveys on skis. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Eklund at 267-1278.

Anchorage District and ASO Minerals employees hosted a farewell for Acting DM Ruth Stockie in the Denali Room Dec. 7. Stockie was in her acting capacity for almost eight months. She's now a training coordinator at BLM's Phoenix Training Center. Cadastral Survey DSD George Oviatt is the district's newest acting, and will remain in the position until a permanent DM is selected.



Campbell Tract's Jerry Risch celebrated 25 years with the federal government in November. His fellow co-workers recognized this auspicious event with cake and many well wishes.

## Applause!

### Sustained Superior Performance Award

**Ralph Ahgupuk**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Carolyn Bailey**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Rita Baker**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Nora Benson**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Julia Boyd**, editorial assistant, Cadastral Survey  
**Mike Brown**, supervisory navigable waters specialist, Cadastral Survey  
**Rena Christoffersen**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Steve Cummings**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Susan DiPrete**, navigable waters specialist, Cadastral Survey  
**Richard Douglas**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**John Douts**, supervisory cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Steve Flippen**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Timothy Flynn**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Ramon Garcia-S**, docket clerk, Operations  
**Douglas Gibson**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Shirley Goforth** support services supervisor, Alaska Fire Service  
**Evy Grafton**, land law assistant, Conveyance Management  
**Steve Grimes**, docket clerk, Operations  
**Sylvia Hale**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Steve Hamrick**, supervisory land surveyor, Cadastral Survey  
**Patricia Holm**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Frank James**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Chuck Joy**, supervisory natural resources specialist, Arctic District  
**Jeanne Kosonen**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Dave Liebersbach**, supervisory natural resources specialist, Arctic District  
**Betty Lockard**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Lance Lockard**, programmer analyst, Cadastral Survey  
**Brenda Moeller**, supervisory computer specialist, Information Resources Mgmt  
**Angie Nichols**, secretary, Cadastral Survey  
**Mary Jane O'Daniel**, personnel actions clerk, Alaska Fire Service  
**Dan Ontiveros**, land surveyor, Cadastral Survey  
**John Payne**, wildlife biologist, Lands and Renewable Resources  
**Jeff Pinkerton**, contact representative, Cadastral Survey  
**Frances Reed**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Donald Rhodes**, electronics mechanic, Alaska Fire Service  
**Robin Rodriguez**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Carol Seeley**, staff assistant, Steese/White Mountains District

**Mary Sheckells**, docket clerk, Operations  
**Elizabeth Sherwood**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**John Spacer**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Ana Stafford**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Donald Stichler**, electronics mechanic supervisor, Alaska Fire Service  
**Dennis Tol**, fisheries biologist, Lands and Renewable Resources  
**Marcia Walker**, land law examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Danny West**, supervisory land surveyor, Cadastral Survey  
**Cal Westcott**, outdoor recreation planner, Arctic District  
**Mike Wilson**, supervisory land surveyor, Cadastral Survey  
**Rita Wood**, docket clerk, Operations  
**Lark Wuerth**, supervisory accounting technician, Alaska Fire Service

### Special Act Award

**Robert Devine**, surveying technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Jerry Waters**, supervisory forestry technician, Alaska Fire Service

### Quality Step Increase

**Larry Evans**, supervisory land surveyor, Cadastral Survey  
**Lynette Nakazawa**, supervisory general biologist, Cadastral Survey  
**Gust Panos**, supervisory cartographer, Cadastral Survey

### On-the-Spot Award

**Craig Casner**, cartographic technician, Operations  
**Susan Erickson**, employee development assistant, Administration  
**Scott Guyer**, general biologist, Cadastral Survey

**Bill Johnston**, supervisory cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Jon Kostohrys**, hydrologist, Steese/White Mountains District  
**Dwayne Richardson**, lead photolithographer, Cadastral Survey  
**Jeff Roach**, outdoor recreation planner, Alaska Fire Service  
**Paul Salvatore**, realty specialist, Arctic District

### Time Off Award

**Dave Bleganski**, cartographic technician, Cadastral Survey  
**Don Meares**, natural resources specialist, Arctic District  
**Dwayne Richardson**, lead photolithographer, Cadastral Survey

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Includes actions processed in November and December 1994. Information provided by ASO Human Resources.





Little "reindeer" from nearby Denali Elementary School visited the Anchorage Federal Office Building Dec. 23. Wearing antlers they made themselves, the youngsters sang Christmas carols for federal employees. Their last stop was the cafeteria, where they were rewarded with milk and cookies.

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Editor - Teresa McPherson  
Graphics - Jim Mroczek



### On the Cover:

BLM carpenter Bill Baker watches as young Nicholas Shannon draws a winning raffle ticket at the Fairbanks annual Christmas party. Each year the BLM maintenance shop, located on Fort Wainwright, hosts the party. Raffle proceeds go to Santa's Clearing House, which helps meet the needs of Fairbanks' less fortunate during the holidays.

Photo by Dan Gullickson.



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